If you feel that the traditional system is satisfactory, why are you introducing the satellite system?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I respectfully submit that I have not said that. I will read my answer, "For the present, the earlier VSAT network and also the traditional system are being utilised for money order service, which is satisfactory". The comma after the word "which" indicates that both are satisfactory. The whole point is that in the case of a money order, the money should reach the person. That is all. That is the real test. The traditional method is stamping it and sending it from one post office to another. It takes a long time. Now, we are using the VSAT for many things. The communication is sent through the VSAT so that the money can be received earlier. One or two per cent of such things can happen in software and it is under the permissible limits of fault. They have always been corrected and the money is paid.

High security number plates

*337. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:†

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report captioned, "High Security Number Plates mandatory from February, 2003", appearing in the 'Times of India' dated the 24th August, 2002;

(b) if so, what are the details of this action plan;

(c) whether this would be made mandatory for all vehicles, both old and new; and

(d) in what way would this help in controlling misuse and theft of vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRASNPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kripal Parmar.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have notified—

(i) technical specifications for these Plates;

(ii) agencies which are authorized to grant the type approval for these Plates.

(iii) the date from which the scheme comes into force.

(c) As per notification the use of these Plates becomes mandatory from 28.2.2003 for new vehicles. For vehicles registered prior to 28.2.2003, two year time has been given to change over to the High Security Registration Plates.

(d) As these Plates contain a number of security features, their duplication/counterfeiting will become difficult. This would prevent misuse of number plates and also help arrest theft of vehicles.

श्री कृपाल परमार: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूं कि जो हाई सिक्योरिटी नम्बर प्लेट्स के बारे में सरकार ने नीति निर्देश जारी किये हैं, क्या उनमें अशोक चक्र के इस्तेमाल का प्रावधान है? दूसरा क्या इस तकनीक से चोरी किये गये वाहनों को पकड़ने के लिए या चोरी रोकने के लिए किसी प्रकार से सहायता मिलेगी? महोदय, समय कम है इसलिए मैं दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी भी साथ ही पूछ रहा हूं कि टाइप अप्रूवल प्रदान करने के लिए अधिकृत एजेंसियां रखी गयी हैं, इनका काम केन्द्रीकृत होगा या इनका विकेन्द्रीकरण करके पूरे प्रदेशों में डिवीज़न और सब डिवीज़न लैवल पर लाया जाएगा?

मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खन्डूडी: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने दो सवाल पूछे हैं। पहले भाग में आपने अशोक चक्र के बारे में पूछा हैं। जो हमने रजिस्ट्रेशन प्लेट में रखा है, वह अशोक चक्र नहीं है इस संबंध में कुछ लोग कोर्ट में गये थे और एक कोर्ट ने तो कह दिया कि यह अशोक चक्र नहीं है। लेकिन अभी भी कुछ लोग कुछ मुद्दों के संबंध में कोर्ट में गये हैं। मुझे अभी-अभी यह सूचना मिली है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सब कोर्ट्स को कह दिया है कि हाई स्क्योरिटी प्लेट संबंधित मुद्दों पर हम जांच करेंगे, उसके बाद उस संबंध में डिसीज़न होगा। हमारे दृष्टिकोण में वह अशोक चक्र नहीं है। दूसरा आपने कहा है कि टाइप अप्रूवल देने के संबंध में क्या इसका विकेन्द्रीकरण किया जाएगा या नहीं। माननीय सभापति जी, हमने टैस्ट अप्रूवल उन संस्थाओं को दिये हैं, जिनके पास यह क्षमता है। टैस्ट अप्रूवल की जो संस्थाएं हैं, ये मेरे मंत्रालय के नीचे नहीं

हैं, अन्य मंत्रालयों के नीचे हैं। जो संस्थाएं हैं, इनमें से सैंट्रल रोड रिसर्च इंस्टीटयूट, साइंस एवं टैक्नोलॉजी मंत्रालय के नीचे है। आटोमैटिक रिसर्च असोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया पूना है, जो कि इंडस्ट्रियल पॉलिसी ऐंड प्रमोशन मंत्रालय के नीचे है। व्हीकल रिसर्च ऐंड डेवलपमेंट अहमदनगर में है, जो मिनिस्ट्री ऑफडिफेंस के नीचे है। इंडियन इंस्टीटयूट ऑफ पैट्रोलियम है जो काउंसिल ऑफ साइंस ऐंड इंडस्ट्रियल रिसर्च के नीचे है और सैंट्रल फार्म मशीनरी ट्रेनिंग ऐंड टैसटिंग इंस्टीटयूट है जो एग्रीकल्चर के नीचे है। मेरी मिनिस्टरी का काम सिर्फ तीन बातें करना है—उसकी स्पैसिफिक्केशन लिखना, टैस्ट अप्रूवल करने वाली एजेंसियों को नामित करना और समय तय करना कि कब से लागू होगा—इसके अलावा सब काम प्रदेश सरकारों के अधिकार में है।

श्री कृपाल परमार: महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इन नम्बर प्लेटों से वाहनों की चोरी को रोकने में किस प्रकार की सहायता मिलेगी?

मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खन्डूड़ी: महोदय, चोरी को रोकने के लिए हाई सिक्योरिटी प्लेट जो लाई जा रही है, वह दो उद्देश्यों से लाई जा रही है, सुरक्षा के लिए और चोरी या उसका मिसयूज़ रोकने के लिए इसके अंदर तीन प्लेटें बनाई गयी हैं। दो तो इस प्रकार की हैं जैसे आम प्लेटें लगती हैं, उनके ऊपर इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था की गयी है कि हमने जो स्पैसीफिक्केशन दिये हैं, उनसे छेड़छाड़ करके उन्हें बदला नहीं जा सकता। साधारण तरीके से एक प्लेट को निकालकर दूसरी प्लेट लगा दो या गलत नम्बर लगा दो, ऐसा नहीं हो सकता क्योंकि यह प्लेट इस प्रकार की है कि अगर उसके साथ कोई छेड़छाड़ करेगा तो यह डैमेज हो जाएगी। उसके अंदर हमने अनेकों चीजें रखी हैं, उनको भी बदलना या डुप्लीकेट लगाना काफी मुश्किल है। तीसरी जो प्लेट है, जो विंड शील्ड के ऊपर लगेगी, उसमें भी इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था है कि अगर उससे कोई छेड़छाड़ करना चाहेगा तो वह सैल्फडिस्ट्रक्टिव हो जाएगी। इससे भी सुरक्षा में और चोरी रोकने में मदद मिलगी।

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, from the reply of the Minister, I gather that this provision of special security in number plates is going to involve crores and crores of rupees. Now, from the reply of the Minister, am I right in believing that the State Governments are going to identify who all are going to be the suppliers of these number plates? If so, have you put down any criteria for choosing the suppliers? Otherwise you are going to face a lot of flak when are suppliers are identified.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C.KHANDURI: Sir, the hon. member is absoutely right in saying that as far as tendering procedure and the selection of entrepreneur is concerned, it is totally under the control of the State Government. We have no authority to interfere with that.

A procedure has been laid down. The States wanted some guidelines. We have given some guidelines to the States in order to select people, to put conditions and to go in for a system which suits a particular State. This is how it is going to be. The hon. Member also pointed out that a lot of money would be involved in it and that we might land up in trouble. Sir, because of certain objections and procedures in some States,certain people had gone to the High Court. the High court gave its ruling. Now the Supreme Court has taken over all the things. So far as tendering procedure is concerned, I would like to make it very clear that it is totally the responsibility of the State Government. We have no role to play in that.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: what will be the price differential between the normal number plates that are being used now and the high security plates? I would also like to know whether any cost-benefit analysis has been done or not. How much extra amount or resources would the Government require for this new system in order to avoid thefts and all that?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, this decision to introduce the new plates was taken after a High Level Committee was asked to go into it 5-6 years ago. The Committee had considered all these aspects which the hon. Member has stated, including the overall benefits. Ultimately, the committee came to the conclusion....(*Interruptions)*.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I want to have a specific answer. What is the price differential? What is the salient feature of the cost-benefit analysis?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I am giving the background. It is not known as to how many rupees or paise would be saved. It would depend on the market trend. Tenders are being floated. the States may get it at different rates. (*Interruptions)*.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, it is very unfortunate. Crores of rupees would be involved in it. But the Government is not aware as to how much money would be spent. Everybody knows that we do not have resources to run the fertilizer units.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Basu, address the Chair not the Minister.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: We do not have a monopolistic system. the price of these plates would vary as per requirements, as per market equations and as per the technology that would be brought in. therefore, nobody can say as to how much would be the cost differential. The analysis was done by the Committee. thereafter, they came to the conclusion that these plates were required.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: The Minister should come out with that study report.

**338. [The questioner (Shri Nandi Yellaiah) was absent for answer vide page 45.]*

**339. [The questioner (Shri N.K. Premachandran) was absent for answer vide page 45.]*

Toll tax in Punjab and Haryana

*340. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:†
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Punjab and Haryana where toll tax is being charged and at what rate;

(b) the body responsible to collect toll tax;

(c) the tax collected, so far, and the share given to the concerned State Governments; and

(d) the terms and conditions for awarding contract to collect toll tax to private bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra.